



NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Institute for Emerging Issues



IEI Digest



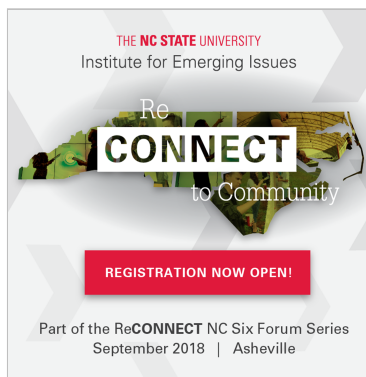
Director's Log | August 2018

My wife and I live in a house on a hill. Our relationship with the couple two doors up may be a lot like the one you have with your neighbors. We nod politely to each other when we pass, but we're a little fuzzy on their names; don't know their children, their interests, their habits. They are probably lovely people; they may be brilliant or funny or lonely: we don't know.

How well do you know your neighbors? If you're like most of us, not very well: just 44% of us report talking with our neighbors "frequently," and only 8% report working with a neighbor on a project. We're just not as neighborly as we used to be.



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[Registration for the Fall Emerging Issues Forum Closes Soon!](#)

Registration for the Fall Emerging Issues Forum "[ReCONNECT to Community](#)" closes soon! Have you gotten YOUR ticket yet? What are you waiting for? We've filled the [agenda](#) of the Sept. 17 event, taking place at the [Asheville Crowne Plaza Resort](#), with a host of speakers and panelists who will examine the issue of civic engagement from a myriad of angles. New York Times columnist [David Brooks](#) will provide the opening keynote, helping us ask the question of just why our communities are so divided. [Tru Pettigrew](#), a community leader from Cary who organized community conversations between local law enforcement and citizens of color, will be the closing keynote speaker. In between, we'll have Gov. [Roy Cooper](#), NC State Provost [Warwick](#)

Arden, UNC Asheville Executive Director of Community Engagement
Darin Waters and more! [Register today!](#)

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[Reach NC Voices](#)

A lot's different about this fall's [Emerging Issues Forum](#). First, we're having it in September, outside of Raleigh in beautiful, scenic Asheville AND we're kicking off a larger, three-year initiative, [ReCONNECT NC](#), that will feature six forums around the state each focusing on a different aspect of civic, social or economic reconnection. Another difference? This forum will be more interactive: We want to talk WITH you, not AT you. A tool helping us do that will be [Reach NC Voices's interactive polling technology](#) that will keep forum participants engaged throughout the day with interactive, real-time questions. Read more about this technology developed by our partners at [Education NC](#) and the way it's creating statewide dialogue like never before.

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[Convocation of the Rural Church](#)

Our Rural Faith Communities Fellow **Kylie Foley** attended the [Convocation for the Rural Church](#), sponsored by [The Duke Endowment](#) as part of its [Thriving Rural Communities](#) program, in Myrtle Beach this month where over 150 rural United Methodist clergy and their families from across North Carolina gathered to learn about "The Power of Welcome." According to Foley, this was an incredibly timely theme for faith communities as they guide their parishioners through heavy news cycles, uncertain futures, and stresses that pull them in every direction during the course of ministry.

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[The Role of Media in Civic Engagement](#)

Many factors contribute to a community's level of civic engagement. One factor? The media. As American media transitions from the traditional local newspaper to a bevy of news and Internet sites, IEI will examine the changing role of media and it's influence on civic engagement in one of the panel discussions at our upcoming Sept. 17 "[ReCONNECT to Community](#)" forum. In this IEI article, IEI staffer **Beth Hatcher** reflects on her time working as a journalist.

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ReCONNECT County Snapshots

On Sept. 4, IEI will release a new online tool we've developed as a companion and conversation starter to our [ReCONNECT NC](#) series. ReCONNECT County Snapshots is a web-based tool that gives people from each of North Carolina's 100 counties a "snapshot" of where they stand in several key areas of "connection": civic engagement, rural-urban connections, economic opportunity, health and technology. Each category relates to one of the five areas ReCONNECT NC will be focusing on over the next three years. IEI Policy and Program Manager **Alicia James**, IEI AmeriCorps VISTA **Paul Nolan**, and IEI summer intern **Haley Boram**, worked to create the tool.

LOOK FOR IT ON OUR WEBSITE SEPT. 4!



First in Future: Western Week!

We hoped you tuned into our First in Future "Western NC Week" Aug. 13-17. As a lead up to our Sept. 17 Emerging Issues Forum "[ReCONNECT to Community](#)," IEI produced a whole week of western NC-themed First in Future podcasts, featuring noted western NC leaders like [Kit Cramer](#), president and CEO of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce; [Ron Paulus](#), president and CEO of Mission Health; [Darin Waters](#), UNC Asheville's executive director of community engagement; [Zeb Smathers](#), mayor of Canton and small-town attorney and [Oscar Wong](#), founder of Highland Brewing Company. Check out all these episodes, then [REGISTER](#) for the "ReCONNECT to Community" forum! In the next three weeks, we'll revisit episodes previously taped with other UNC leaders.

In Recent News | headlines and diverse perspectives

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BPR News | Aug. 15, 2018

[Explore Elkin to be showcased at fall Emerging Issues Forum](#)

The Tribune | Aug. 24, 2018

[ECSU picked for statewide IEI forum](#)

The Daily Advance | Aug. 26, 2018

[NYT's David Brooks headlines Emerging Issues Forum tackling ways to mend divided communities](#)

WRAL TechWire | Aug. 27, 2018

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